

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Partition is a drama film in 2007 directed by Vic Sarin, written by Patricia Finn and Vic Sarin. The executive producer of this movie is Christopher Zimmer. This movie was first released on February 02, 2007 in Canada. The duration of this movie is 108 minutes or one hour forty eight minutes. This movie based on the partition of India set in 1947. The location of this movie are in New Delhi, Sirsa (Punjab), Lahore, Kasur and England. This movie uses English language. The music of *Partition* movie was arranged by Brian Tyler. It is stared by Jimi Mistry as Gyan Singh, Kristin Kreuk as Naseem Khan, Neve Campbell as Margaret Stilwell, John Light as Walter Hankins, Irrfan Khan as Avtar, Madhur Jaffrey as Shanti Singh, Aarya Babbar as Akbar Khan, Lushin Dubey as Mumtaz, Chenier Hundal as Zakir Khan, Jesse Moss as Andrew Stilwell, and Jaden Rain as Vijay Singh (<http://www.imdb.com>).

The director of *Partition* movie is Vic Sarin. He was born in Kashmir, India, in 1945. He began his career in Australia making documentaries that he produced, wrote, directed and shot, while working for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation as a cameraman. He then emigrated to Canada and went on to become one of Canada's most celebrated Directors of Photography, receiving numerous accolades

including Genie, Gemini and Emmy nominations and awards among others. He is the recipient of the prestigious Kodak Lifetime Achievement Award for having created some of Canadian cinema's most moving and memorable images. Vic's outstanding work on feature films such as *Margaret's Museum* (1995), *Whale Music* (1994), *Bye Bye Blues* (1989), *Dancing in the Dark* (1986) and *On My Own* (1993) earned him world renown as one of Canada's premier cinematographers.

Vic Sarin then turned his focus for directing where he often wears both hats as Director and Cinematographer, creating a distinct look and feel with breathtaking visuals and a unique storytelling style that seamlessly weaves together the emotional and visual aspects of his films (<http://www.imdb.com>).

As a director, Sarin has won recognition for a diverse range of films such as the feature *Cold Comfort* (1989), starring Maury Chaykin and Paul Gross, which garnered five Genie (Canadian Academy Award) nominations including Best Picture. He has thrice received Emmy nominations for his family films for television: *In His Father's Shoes* (1997), starring Lou Gossett (five Emmy nominations including Best Direction and Best Picture), *Sea People* (1999) starring Hume Cronyn, (four Emmy nods including Best Direction and Best Picture) *The Legend of Gator face* (1996) and *Trial at Fortitude Bay* (1994) starring Lolita Davidovitch and Henry Czerny which garnered both *Emmy* and Cable Ace nods. He received critical acclaim for the controversial television movie,

Murder Unveiled - A Love Story (2005). He also directed the smash hit Christian feature film *Left Behind* (2000) based on the popular book series. (<http://www.imdb.com>).

The main theme of *Partition* movie is about the region separation. It is caused by religion difference between Moslems in Pakistan and Hindus and Sikhs in India. The problem is very interesting to be analyzed because its historical backdrop creates awareness and dialogue around the theme. This problem happens since the independence of India and Pakistan in August 14, 1947. While the independence from the British Empire and division of the colony into the free states of India and Pakistan is a matter of celebration, the politic and division of the country also resulted the violence in the largest mass migrations on the border between the newly independent states in the 20th Century and in the deaths and assaults of more than 1,000,000 of migrants in the process.

The summary of *Partition* movie begins when Gyan Singh and Avtar are officers with the Indian Army serving under the command of Andrew Stilwell, who lives with his sister, Margaret, in New Delhi. During 1941 the trios are dispatched to an active duty in Burma where Andrew is killed. Both Gyan and Avtar return to their village in Sirsa, Punjab, where Gyan lives with his widowed mom, Shanti. During 1947, after 350 years of occupying India, the British decides to leave, but not before separating Islamic Pakistan and secular India.

Millions of Moslems crossed over from India to Pakistan, while an equal number of Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians crossed over from the other side. A group of Moslems who were crossing over to Pakistan are attacked by a mob of sword wielding horse-riding Sikhs and Hindus, including Avtar, many of them are slaughtered, but some others do manage to escape. Moslems, in turn, kill all Hindus, Sikhs and Christian passengers on a train en-route to India. While Gyan, who refuses to participate in any killing, is picking up wood for his fireplace. He comes across a young Moslem girl, Naseem Khan, in hiding and decides to shelter her.

He brings her to his home, places a turban over head to make her look like a young Sikh lad, and hides her in a trunk from his mother. But the villagers do find out, while some of them want to out rightly kill her, some others want her to leave. Gyan donates some money for the displaced Sikhs and Hindus from Pakistan, and asks the villagers to give him some time to locate her family from Pakistan and then send her on her way, to which they agree.

Gyan seeks the help of Margaret, who does her best to liaise with the Ministry of Unification of Families, but to no avail. In the meantime, Naseem adapts herself to the village life, soon Naseem and Gyan fall in love with each other. Shortly thereafter both get married; Naseem gives birth to a boy, Vijay.

Years later, they get a surprise visit from Margaret, who has known the location of Naseem's family. Naseem is thrilled, and departs to Kasur in Pakistan to meet her family, who she will be staying with her family for a month. When she does not return after 3 months, Gyan approaches the authorities to travel to Pakistan, but is refused as only Moslems are permitted to cross over. He then converts to Islam, changes his name to Mohammad Hassan, and together with Vijay, obtains necessary documents to travel to Pakistan, but are stopped at the border and asked to bring further proof. Both father and son sneak in through the border fence and find a room in Lahore Royal Hotel, which is managed by Walter Hankins, a friend of Margaret.

Gyan goes to Kasur, finds Naseem's house - and it is here that he gets severely beaten up by Naseem's brothers, Akbar and Zakir, along with their mother, have been holding Naseem against her will in their house. The reason: Naseem's father has been killed by a Sikh, they refuse to permit her to leave the house and return to her family. Gyan is hauled to jail and there he wallows in the darkness, refusing to return to India until he remembers that he has a son who needs him.

Naseem's mother, realizing that the couple is truly in love, frees Naseem, who runs to the train. She recognizes Vijay immediately and hugs him, unaware that Gyan is just on the other side of the tracks. When he calls her name, they begin to fight through the crowd to reach each other. Just as they meet, Akbar pulls them apart and begins a struggle with

Gyan. Gyan is pushed over the railing onto the tracks just as the train arrives and he is killed. Naseem sobs hysterically as she slowly collapses to the ground.

Naseem and Vijay escape on the train as the police arrive for Akbar. With the help of Margret and Walter they move to England and Avtar spreads Gyan's ashes given by Walter over a banyan tree (<mailto:gunwanti@hotmail.com>).

There are many responses, some positive and some others negative to this movie. First positive responses are Vigarspar-1 from Canada on February 16, 2007 says that “Vic Sarin's camera work takes this wonderful love story to a higher plain. All add up to make one of the best movies I have seen in a long time. Jimi Mistry and Kristin Kreuk give outstanding performance with Neve Campbell playing the sympathetic British subject during the time of the raj. Set in India during the partition of Indian and Pakistan in 1947, this movie is timely in its focus on the trouble that surrounds our world today. I found that the story, written by Sarin, does not point a finger of blame on either side, simply comments on the death and suffering that 'religion' has brought to the world since the beginning of mankind.” (<http://www.imdb.com/user/ur>)

Second, Sidney-27 from Canada on February 11, 2007. Sidney-27 says that “The whole theater broke into applause at the end. Partition is spectacular, intense and well made all 'round. The actors all shine, the

photography is excellent and the story is well told. It gives great insight into the creation of Pakistan and its break from India in the late 40's.

While Canadians have made some great movies of late and a lot of talent comes out of Canada, many of their movies are small stories (with the exception of Atom Agoyan's films) but as a movie, this for us is probably the best movie ever made in Canada, and one of the best we've seen from anywhere this year. I hope it gets wide distribution.”
(<http://www.imdb.com/user/ur>)

Among the negative responses first are Carmelaborn from USA in August 19, 2007 Carmelaborn says that “I dislike this movie because it is way too dramatic. It makes me feel angry, sad, and frustrated. The cast is very good, though, and the movie itself is very artistic. The musical score is lovely and evokes much emotion.” (<http://www.flixster.com/movie/partition>)

Second, Eltorgo from USA in February 4, 2007 says “Apparently nothing happens in this movie. Maybe it should team up with 'rogue'. With rogue's synopsis and partitions poster they would be unstoppable!”
(<http://www.flixster.com/movie/partition>)

The sociology of literature is a study of literature based on the sociological perspective that is described by the author on his or her literary work, to understand the social phenomenon at that time, sociology of literature also tries to explain that the existence of literary work is not only as indication of individual but also indication of social. It means that

literary work is a reflection between man and man, man and social community, and man and event which happen in a certain period time.

Laurenson and Swingewood (1972:14-17) state that sociology of literature is divided into three kinds, they are: (1) Sociology of the writer. It attempts to study the literary career of the writer and his whole works dealing with his life story and background (writer biography), (2) Sociology of the society. It is the study of the influence of society to his work. To dig he linked between the literary work and its social background, (3) Sociology of the readers. It is the study of the influence of the work to the reader.

A more formal definition of sociological theory is a set of interrelated ideas that allow for the systematization of knowledge of the social world, the explanation of that world, and prediction about the future of the social world.

Partition is a good movie and it is very interesting to be analyzed. The writer discovered four reasons why choosing this movie. First, this movie is a realistic movie because this movie based on the history of separation between India and Pakistan set in 1947.

Second, *Partition* movie has beautiful cinematography, though perhaps not as much is made of this as could be. It is not too hot on realism, featuring a number of passionate public embraces which would have caused scandal at that time.

Third, the plot of this movie is attractive. The film is elevated by a superb turn from Jimi Mistry. It is a judiciously performance in a film which lays the sentiment on thick, and it gives the story a solid core. There is also great work in the supporting roles, notably from the ever-reliable Irrfan Khan and Madhur Jaffrey as Gyan's relatives, and Jaden Rain proves an impressive young child actor. Also curious is the presence of Neve Campbell as the Englishwoman whose brother fought at Gyan's side in the war, and who agrees to help him.

The last, *Partition* movie is a tremendously big subject for any film. It is certainly a curious choice for a production team based in Canada, working with a Canadian teen star (Kristin Kreuk, best known for her work in *Smallville*). Director Vic Sarin approaches it through the medium of a transgress relationship, also split along religious lines, but his simplistic love story is ultimately too limited in scope to tell us much about the depth and complexity of the larger theme.

The writer uses sociological theory to analyze this research in order to reveal the main character's problem because the theory is related to the problem discussed. By this theory the writer can get the maximum result. So, here the writer constructs the title **IMPACTS OF SEPARATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN IN VIC SARIN'S *PARTITION* MOVIE (2007): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

The writer shows the previous studies to prove the originality of this research. There are two researches conducted by Atif Mian (2008) and Anindita Dasgupta (2008).

Atif Mian (2008) has conducted a research entitled *THE BIG MARCH: MIGRATORY FLOWS AFTER THE PARTITION OF INDIA*. In his paper, he finds the partition of India in 1947 along ostensibly religious lines into India, Pakistan, and what eventually became Bangladesh resulted in one of the largest and most rapid migrations in human history. In this paper district level census data from archives are compiled to quantify the scale of migratory flows across the subcontinent. He estimates that the total migratory inflows of 14.5 million and outflows of 17.9 million, implying 3.4 million “missing” people. The paper also uncovers a substantial degree of regional variability. Flows were much larger along the western border, higher in cities and areas close to the border, and dependent heavily on the size of the “minority” religious group. The migratory flows also display a “relative replacement effect” with in-migrants moving to places that saw greater out migration.

The second researcher is Anindita Dasgupta (2008) who has conducted a research entitled *REMEMBERING SYLHET: A FORGOTTEN STORY OF INDIA'S 1947 PARTITION MOVIE*. In her paper, she focused on the cases of Punjab and Bengal, but very few have been based on the site of partition in colonial Assam, “Sylhet”. Urgent attention is required

to record the historiography of partition in “Sylhet” as many of those who had experienced the phase of partition are more than 80 years old now.

From two previous researches above, the current study of this research is intended to complete those previous researches and to enrich the similar research. This research is to analyze the impacts of separation between India and Pakistan in Vic Sarin’s *Partition* movie. This paper tries to explore how this movie reflects the impacts of separation which is occurred in India and Pakistan set in 1947. Besides, the writer identifies the relationship between the intrinsic elements of the movie and the extrinsic ones based on the perspective of sociology. The message of the director is carried out through the intrinsic elements of the movie include the theme, casting, setting, style, plot, points of view and character. Meanwhile, the writer tries to portrait the social background of India and Pakistan society in 1947 as the extrinsic elements.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of this research is “How is the impact of separation between India and Pakistan reflected in *Partition* movie (2007)?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study in this research focuses on the analysis of major character’s problem on Vic Sarin’s *Partition* movie which is viewed from sociological perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

In this research, the writer has some objectives are as followings:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie by finding character and characterization, casting, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound and editing.
2. To analyze the movie based on sociological perspective by identifying the relationship between the movie and the social background of India society in 1947.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that this research has benefit in two aspects:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
- b. To give a contribution to other literary research especially in the study of *Partition* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. To get the deeper understanding about sociological perspective in *Partition* movie.
- b. To enrich the literary study, particularly among the students especially on Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. The writer relates to each other to make this research easy to be analyzed. In this research, the writer has some steps are as followings:

1. Type of the Study

The writer analyzes the *Partition* movie by using qualitative method. Moleong (1991: 5) states that qualitative research is a type of research, which results the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

2. Object of the Study

Object of the study in this research is Vic Sarin's *Partition* movie.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The data of this research are scenes, dialogue and movie script in *Partition* movie directed by Vic Sarin. In this research, there are two sources, namely primary and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are taken from the movie and script of *Partition* movie directed by Vic Sarin.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are taken from essay, comment, historical information, biography of Vic Sarin, internet, material and references related to this research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The writer uses note taking and image capturing as the methods in collecting the data, the steps are as followings:

- a. Watching the movie several times, until the researcher gets an adequate information or data to be analyzed.
- b. Taking a note of the important parts in the primary and secondary data.
- c. Browsing to the internet in order to get some information that related to the topic.
- d. Developing the data that are provided.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of the data analysis in this research is descriptive analysis. The writer tries to construct the structural elements of the movie by using sociological analysis.

H. Paper Organization

The writer systematizes his research paper into six chapters. *The first chapter* is introduction. This chapter consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. *The second chapter* is underlying theory. It consists of sociology of literature, major principles of sociology of literature, structural element and theoretical application. *The third chapter* consists

of the social background of India society in the twentieth centuries, especially in around 1947 when the partition between India and Pakistan happened. *The fourth chapter* is structural analysis. The writer presents structural elements of the movie. *The fifth chapter* presents sociological analysis of the movie and discussion. *The last chapter* is conclusion and suggestion of the research.